

Hot Springs County Residents Get Access to Clean and Safe Water

Residents south of the Town of Thermopolis and in surrounding rural communities faced a problem in their existing water system due to adding additional customers over the years in areas that were not served by the existing water system.

South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District needed more storage at a higher elevation, a new booster station and additional underground distribution lines in order to provide water service that met the state's guidelines.

Through USDA's Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs, USDA and its partners financed the installation of 7.5 miles of drinking water pipeline, a water storage tank and meters. This project also connected 74 rural residences and businesses to South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District.



Three 30,000 gallon water storage tanks at an upper elevation of the \$4 million project that feed to the community below.

In designing the system, engineers were mindful of the Big Horn River and minimized disturbance to a critical habitat for the region.

Because of available USDA resources, the residents south of Thermopolis and surrounding areas were able to gain access to safe and sanitary water while respecting Wyoming's landscape and wildlife.

The town and surrounding communities may not have been able to take on a project of this scope without the help of USDA Rural Development's loan and grant program. Rural Development approved a loan of \$407,000 and a grant of \$233,958, along with \$3.2 million in additional funds.

Obligation Amount: \$407,000 loan and \$233,958 grant

Date of Obligation: January 2012 (completed June 2016)

Congressional District: Lummis, At-Large; Senators Enzi and Barrasso

Partners: Water Development Commission, State Land & Investment Board, Community Development

Demographics: Southern area of Big Horn Basin in Hot Springs County

Impact: Rural residents were provided the critical drinking water they needed to continue to enjoy their livelihood and through partnership with USDA, the district gained critical funding to complete their project with state partners.
